

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
March 27, 2008
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cameron Wheeler at 8:00 a.m. with Commissioners Barowsky, Power, Budge, and McDermott participating.

Present in the Director's office were Director Groen; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator; Rachel Byington, Administrative Assistant.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Updates

Sharon Kiefer briefed the Commission on pending legislation.

Legislative Bills

SB 1512 – This bill removes the exemption from paying operating fees (registration fees) for the Department other entities. Motor vehicles owned or leased by the United States retain the exemption. This bill would have a fiscal impact to the Department that would be around \$45,000 - \$100,000. Staff suggests to the Commission at a technical level to monitor the bill, answer any questions and testifying to only the fiscal part of the bill. The Department is not recommending the Commission take a specific position as this bill is not a specific to only the Department of Fish and Game (Appendix 41, Exhibit 45).

HB 683 - This bill revises Department of Agriculture appropriation. This bill is going back to include the \$60,800 for Fiscal Year 2008 in the Department of Agriculture's budget to accommodate the sportsmen's request that the money be available to the Department for the Domestic Cervidae Executive Order.

Previously Discussed Bill Update:

Sharon Kiefer reported on the following previously discussed bills. Bill tracking spreadsheets were provided via email to the Commissioners (Appendix 41, Exhibit 46).

HB 640 – The purpose of this bill was to add a \$10.00 surcharge to all Idaho specialty license plates. This bill died on the house floor.

SB 1374 – As amended in the house this bill clarifies the wolf depredation control provisions and statutes. This bill was passed unanimously in the Senate. The Governor's

Office has been alerted that the Department would like to see this bill signed prior to Friday, March 28, 2008 so that this bill is in effect when the delisting occurs.

Other Legislative Discussion:

Sharon reported to the Commission that the Department has been seeing some activity in regards to the Departments Expendable big game depredation fund spending authority. There was a committee hearing held regarding how the claims under this fund have come in excess of the Department FY08 appropriation this year. A request has been made by the producers and Senator Schroeder to Senator Cameron to have JFAC consider reopening the Department's budget to increase the appropriation. Senator Cameron committed only to take it up with JFAC (Appendix 41, Exhibit 47).

Sharon recommended to the Commission that this would be the last IFG Legislative Conference Call for the session.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary